



"How is it possible for you to write a letter every night to Alvin—and yet flunk English composition?"



BY ROGER Q. WILLIAMS

**BRAINS VS. BRAUN**  
 Prior to World War One, and during the ten years that followed its closing, green years and the perfect physique of the athlete were demanded of flying material. Pilots thirty years old were deemed "old men" in aviation. It was considered unbelievable that a man of fifty could learn to fly.  
 How times have changed! Flying grandmothers and grandfathers have proven that age is no longer a barrier to learning to fly. Brains have replaced brawn to the extent that flying as taught today is about 75% headwork and only 25% foot and hand work.  
 Safewise folks from 16 to 82 have proven to the medics that perfect vision without glasses, perfect depth perceptions, strong and pliable muscles and youth for perfect coordination have blasted sky-high their old-fashioned ideas pertaining to physical requirements for a pilot. However, color blindness is still a serious and dangerous detriment, particularly for those who cannot distinguish any shade of green.  
 Lots of folks might ask the reason for this great change. Was it because of the perfection of the airplane—or, the change in people?  
 It was a little of the former and a whole lot of the latter. Airplanes and engines have been remarkably improved in the last twenty years, but the big change has been in the psychological readjustment in just common folks' minds about flying. They no longer look upon flying as sheer suicide, nor do they enter the cockpit with fear or palsy. The sensible method of indoctrination to flying has been improved immensely for the better. In the old days fear gripped every student from the moment his feet left the ground. Mental and physical relaxation, so important in learning to fly, was impossible to many because of their lack of knowledge of what makes an airplane stay in the air. From take-off to landing their faculties were frozen with fright—their flight just a floating dream. In many instances, instructors were victims of "snowball" anemia and utterly paralyzed their students with dire fear by starting the lessons with a daring stunt ride just to fan their dastard ego.  
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